

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is responsive to the non-final Office Action issued on August 6, 2003. The previous grounds for rejection have been withdrawn. New objections and grounds for rejection have been presented.

The Examiner approved the proposed drawing corrections. Formal drawings are enclosed herewith.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Some amendments have been made. The claim amendments herein merely make explicit that which was already implicit in the claims, and therefore do not change the claim scope. Although the Examiner cited 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, no claim amendments were in fact required for patentability. Following are additional comments on the indefiniteness rejections.

The Examiner asked whether the "gating device" is part of the control circuit. Previously, claim 1 mentioned the gating device only inferentially, and did not indicate that it was part of the control circuit. Therefore, no amendment was needed for patentability. However, the claims have been amended to make it even more clear that the gating device is not part of the control circuit. It is again noted that the independent claims are directed to the control circuit, not the gating device. The gating device, if any, is recited in dependent claims.

The Examiner stated that in claim 1, line 5, "it is not understood what relevance the 'power device' has, since such is 'intended use' with respect to the 'driving circuit' which is, in turn, 'intended use' for the 'control circuit.'" The Examiner has interpreted the claim correctly based on the present claim language. The control circuit recited in claim 1 is intended to be used for controlling a driving circuit which in turn is used for driving a power device. The Office Action does not point out any problem in the language of claim 1 that requires an amendment.

In connection with claim 17, the Examiner said "it is not understood how the 'high side driving circuit' and the 'low side driving circuit' can both be part of the 'control circuit' when there has been no connection or cooperation recited therebetween." The Examiner has read

the claim correctly. The high side driving circuit and the low side driving circuit are not part of the claimed control circuit. The claimed invention of claim 17 is a control circuit. Its intended use is controlling high side and low side driving circuits. The high side and low side driving circuits are not part of the claimed control circuit. The Examiner is correct in stating that the high side driving circuit and the low side driving circuit are not part of the control circuit, and claim 17 does not say that they are.

Claim 20 originally depended from independent claim 17. Claim 20 states that the integrated circuit of claim 17 further comprises a high side driving circuit and a low side driving circuit. The Examiner objected to claim 20, stating the high side and low side driving circuits had already been recited in claim 17. The Examiner is incorrect. In claim 17, the high side and low side driving circuits were only recited as the intended use or environment of the control circuit of claim 17. Claim 17 is clearly directed to a control circuit. Although its intended use is for controlling driving circuits, the driving circuits are not positively claimed in claim 17.

Although not necessary, claim 20 has been clarified by rewriting it in independent form. None of the subject matter of claim 20 has been changed and its scope remains the same as in the last amendment. That which was implicit and in fact quite clear has been made even more explicit. The present amendments to claim 20 were not needed for patentability.

If the Examiner has any further questions about the meaning of the claims, he is urged to telephone the undersigned before issuing another office Action.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

Claims 1-27 have been rejected as anticipated by Masui.

Claims 1, 9 and 17 each recite "correction circuitry for preventing the sense input signal from including spurious information received from the power device." In the embodiment of Figure 4, for example, sensing circuitry (46) receives a sense input signal (at its + input) and generates a sense result signal for controlling a driving circuit (44). The problem to be avoided is high-frequency noise or negative spikes ("spurious information") reaching the comparator 46.

To address this problem, the correction circuitry (160) is interposed between the sensing circuitry (46) and the power device (42, via 66 and 60). If high-frequency noise or a

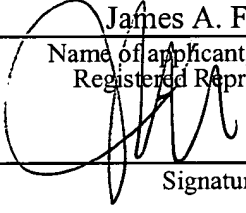
negative spike is transferred by the gating diode (60), it is removed by the correction circuitry (160) which thereafter generates and transfers the sense input signal to the sensing circuitry (46).

The Masui reference has no such disclosure. Its gating diode 8 detects information relative to the operation of the power IGBT 6 and transfers its output directly to the comparator 9. There is no removal of any high-frequency noise, negative spikes or any other spurious information from the signal provided from the IGBT 6 to the comparator 9.

In view of the foregoing remarks, allowance of claims 1-27 is requested.

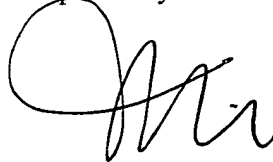
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 3, 2003:

James A. Finder
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

October 3, 2003
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Finder
Registration No.: 30,173
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700

JAF:msd